



Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: January 15th, 2020
Time: 7:15PM
Location: 1st floor conference room
Attendees: *Executive committee*: Christopher Tonkin (chair), Doug Greenfield, Jack Johnson, Muris Kobaslija, Doug Mayo-Wells, Adam MacNeill
Town of Arlington: Daniel Amstutz

David Creedon, Rod Holland

Review/approval of November, December minutes

November - clarify item "Police Reports" - ABAC is requesting the COBWEB officers bring reports of bike-related accidents from the previous months

December - written notes provided

-- Motion to approve as amended

-- Carries, none opposed, none abstaining

TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) report

Note: Scott Smith on travel but submitted notes in advance

TAC sent a letter supporting keeping the bikeway intersection in the Arlington High School rebuild plan

Arlington High School rebuild

Estimated cost for bikeway connection was 700K, this has been struck out of the planm but kept as an add-alternate (could be funded as part of the project if other items come in under budget or alternate sources of funding are identified)

Other cuts include field lighting, geothermal wells

No significant adjustments to plan for main building

Status of other bike infrastructure requests (parking, etc.) is unclear

Connection of bikeway to Mill Brook Drive behind building is also unclear

5ft sidewalk is too narrow for bike & pedestrian use

Phil Goff was advocating for 10ft sidewalk

Per Jeff Thielman (HS Building Committee chair) in email to Daniel Amstutz:

May add ramp and sidewalk at later date, but they are outside current project scope

- bikeway ramp remains add-alternate

Per Clarissa Rowe (Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee) - suggestion to pursue state funding?

Mass Trails grant has an annual cycle, could apply Jan 2021

Might be able to partially fund bikeway ramp

Sustainable Transportation Plan Committee

Held meetings in December, January

December 16 - announced selection of Nelson\Nygaard as consultants to develop plan, discussed communication & community outreach plans, discussed stakeholders. Full minutes available <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=50245>

January 13 - Nelson\Nygaard attended and discussed project scope of work, schedule, and outcomes.

Warrant Article for the removal or changing of the Bikeway hours.

Adam met with Arlington Police Department (APD) to discuss - mixed, somewhat negative response

APD perspective is that trespass allows them to enforce decriminalized infractions, they want that ability on the bike path --- e.g., if there is a complaint about drinking on the bike path, noise, loitering

APD does not enforce the bylaw for people legitimately using the Bikeway

APD does some amount of preemptive patrolling after hours

However APD is willing to consider extending hours from 9pm to 11pm during the summer.

From APD perspective, the Bikeway is more like a park than a road - some parks have extended summer hours, or exemptions e.g. for ball games, so there is precedent.

Rod asks if Mass Bike might have an opinion on this matter

We acknowledge that many ABAC members routinely violate this bylaw

Town manager's office indicates they are not comfortable bringing forward a warrant given the response from APD

But can be brought forward as a citizen action.

Is this where ABAC wants to put effort?

Don't want to ruffle feathers, but discretionary enforcement opens possibility of abuses, profiling
- "nobody's perfect" and abuses can happen without bad intent.

Last time this was raised (for elimination of restriction), "no action" was voted, but expanded hours of operation on a limited basis may be less controversial.

If expanded hours proposal can be formalized, can ask for positive report to board of selectmen, from APD planning dept

Jack - or alternately propose informal trial project and formalize in town meeting next year?

-- Motion for ABAC to write resolution requesting that Adam MacNeill (as Town Meeting member) reach out to APD to confirm their support of extended hours proposal, and conditional on that support draft a warrant article to bring to Town Meeting

-- Motion carries, none opposed, no abstentions

Bike share update

Email to abac-discuss from Phil Goff confirming that Lime is not renewing any contracts with Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) communities for bike share operations (lobbying statewide to ease restrictions on scooters. Phil suggests that ABAC should step up efforts to fund Blue Bikes

Per Daniel Amstutz, 2 grants have been applied for:

Daniel will be updating Town Manager and Select Board, waiting to brief media until Town has been briefed

Capital Planning committee funding discussions not reported to be positive - Blue Bikes stations may or not be in the budget for May Town Meeting vote

The 2 grants are statewide/regional funding -

Either grant would enable us to install 5 stations (likely in EA)

Workforce Transportation grant would be next state fiscal yr

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) community connections grant would be ~ oct 2020

Lyft/BlueBike has offered 100K incentive for new stations to new communities

(cost is about \$200 for 5 docks, so ~50% effective discount)

Arlington, Newton, Watertown, Chelsea are applying for matching

We may want to try to identify current use of Blue Bike in manual count to demonstrate demand in Arlington (anecdotal, committee members see them in Town even though there are no stations).

Town would not pay operating costs for stations, but would not get revenue share

Partnering with Arlington Community Education for Dr. Finison's talk

ABAC has agreed to to assist with promotion as requested

Doug Greenfield's interactive Arlington bike map

Doug will reach out to see what is involved in hosting map on Town Website. Should be straightforward, very few technical requirements.

ABAC Retreat part 2: planning

March 7th (no room secured yet)

should finalize plans in February, send emails, post at Kickstand, etc.

Bike Friendly Community renewal

Daniel pursued this for Greensboro NC

Arlington will apply for Silver status in August

Daniel will start the application process and see where help is needed

Liaison with DPW for upcoming road works, etc

Christopher contacting Mike Rademacher -

Will ask about road painting schedule for spring, sharrows, bikeway maintenance

Swan Place & Pond Lane road painting did get done

East of Arlington Center - Mass Ave road surface is in bad shape

Bridge over the creek right at the town line, Doug M will email to Christopher

Problems with bike counter

Kittelson & Associates (consultants for Mass DoT) have determined the counter may need a replacement part from Eco-counter

Note: can still look up night traffic from July to October to support operating hours change

Related: Jennifer Litowski/EALS looking for support for winter manual counts at Lake St.

Annual Social: venue and topics

Daniel talked to Muris - planning on an end of February or beginning of March date

Focus on family biking, infants, young children

Daniel will do intro

Carice Reddien, owner of Bicycle Belle will talk about different options

Muris - will talk about experiences, myth of "when you become a parent, you have to buy a car"
how to be car free or car lite

Clean energy futures committee will discuss net zero by 2050 plan

Looking at buildings and transportation

Maybe a panel format?

Might not get enough questions for robust panel - maybe 3 short talks then general Q&A

Per Kickstand 7-9pm most days work great since they close at 7

Maybe Wed 25th of March - will verify w/ Kickstand, Bicycle Belle

budget same as less year \$500

David can provide projector, amp, DougM can provide mic

Can start publicizing Facebook etc

Arlington parents list

town email blast

school bulletin boards, reach out to safe routes to school coordinators

+ Lexington, Bedford

Any other business.

Mass Trails grant

environmental planner Emily Sullivan applying for Mass Trails grant originally for Reservoir trail to be made Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible (in Lexington but owned by Arlington)
(for root-y areas, tried porous pavement)

Discussed Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) program manager doing something with the loop would be ok, but they are interested in critical connections between trails -- so maybe connection between loop and bikeway (now dirt from hurd field) 700ft or so
Would make good connection to Lowell street from the Bikeway - good get to Whipple, Lexington farms etc.

Would ABAC support?
Yes, sounds overdue
Might be issues with playing fields, path needs to keep to the side

Parks & Rec Commision and Parks Department were supportive
Looking at design, interest in rehabilitating field anyway

Grant application due feb 1st

-- Motion for Christopher to draft letter of support for grant

-- Carries, none opposed, no abstentions

Town survey out, please take it!

Received communication from Town Meeting Member
wants to submit warrant article about use of bikeway by e-bikes and electric scooters
Presented rather neutrally - maybe want to study - will meet tomorrow and get more info

--Motion to adjourn

--Adjourned